**Fogera- Second round Innovation platform meeting - 21/11/2011**

**Venue: Fogera Woreda office of Agriculture and Rural Development (IPMS knowledge center)**

**Participants from Addis Ababa: Kebebe Ergano, Zelalem Lema, and Alemayehu Belay**

**Introductions**

Alemayehu welcomed participants and Zelalem chaired round of introductions and introduced the agenda.

Alemayehu briefly talked on the first IP meeting and highlighted the major land and water management issues listed from the group discussions of that meeting.

* Population pressure leading to deforestation
* Free grazing as a problem causing soil erosion as well as leading to destruction of the already installed conservation structures
* Lack of awareness
* Lack of soil and water conservation technologies
* Expansion of farm land
* Flooding during rainy season and lack of water during dry season
* Uncertainties in rainfall pattern
* Lack of forests on sloppy areas

Q: why Fogera was selected by the project? What do you like to achieve in this project? What gaps did you think you see in Fogera which the project needs filling in?

Q: regarding NRM, we are doing what is possible with our capacity to install both physical and biological soil and water conservation practices. Even though, our efforts are not based on research findings, we are giving it what we got. Researchers are coming and going in the woreda, what different thing have you got?

Ans: Zelalem and Alemayehu explained that Fogera is one of the three pilot Woredas where NBDc project is implemented in Ethiopia. They explained that uncoordinated efforts have been made to tackle land and water management issues in different parts of the country over the years. But the impact is limited and there has been duplication of efforts and not single organization/project can tackle interrelated problems of land and water management acting alone. Therefore, innovation platforms will be used as a tool to bring together different stakeholders working in land and water management to plan and pilot activities jointly. Fogera is picked as a site to pilot so that it feeds into generating evidence to scale out.

Following the list of constraints on land and water management, participants were asked to prioritize the problems based on the importance. The participants had a long discussion on each issue providing reasons why it is important. More attention was given to lack of awareness. Agreement was reached that lack of awareness is cross cutting applying for almost all the issues listed out and exist not just among farmers but also at every level in the structure (experts, management, etc..)

The group then agreed to choose one issue that serves as an entry point around which a number of other issues can be tackled. Finally, free grazing was selected as an entry point for discussion. Participants were put in 3 groups (management people, technical people and Development Agents combined with farmers (no. of farmers were small to have a separate group)) to thoroughly discuss on the following points;

* The extents of the problem in the woreda?
* What role they think they can play to improve the situation?
* How do you think it should be improved?

**General points compiled from the different group discussions**

Following group discussions, there was feedback session and some of the issues which came visibly are the following;

**Context**

* Religious and cultural beliefs guiding decisions to keep large herd as well as thithering ; which causes stress to the already diminishing grazing land in the woreda
* Almost all the existing grazing land in the woreda is communal; there is lack of collective action to manage the resource

**Associated Problem**

* As a result, it contributed to flooding, reduction in livestock productivity, more cattle disease through transmissions, destruction of the already established land and water management structures
* Capacity lacks in terms of knowing what works where as most of efforts are not based on research

**Some Suggested solution**

* Continuous and coordinated discussions among all stakeholders involved to identify the root cause of the problem and work for solution (farmers, woreda, NGOs, etc)
* Providing integrated trainings for people in each sector, experience sharing visits, field days, etc to fill knowledge gaps
* Integrate improved breed with enclosure, improved forage development, seedling raising, market linkage and beekeeping
* Thithering livestock as it also reduces disease transmission, soil erosion and destruction of seedlings and conservation structures.
* Integrating efforts by administration, experts, farmers and others in order to address the cause
* Engaging in action research so that everyone learns by doing, through piloting
* ‘you’re the expert, convince them (the farmers)’ attitude should be replaced with integration

Following the feedback sessions, Tewodros Tafesse presented some of the hydrological activities of the project.

**Purpose of the hydrological research**

Hydrological research will intend to know why and where some rainwater management strategies work. He mentioned the installation of instruments in the woreda taking reference to the actual micro watershed (Mizwa River). The automatic weather station coupled with various instruments installed will measure rainfall, soil moisture, ground water, temperature and relative humidity

The measurements will focus on the following hydrological variables;

* How much rain falls and where does the water goes
* How much recharge water goes to the ground as ground water?
* How much water is lost?

Comment: Keffie suggested that it is good that a PRA looking method is being used as a way of prioritizing issues in participatory way.

**Action points**

* Next meeting will focus on developing strategies in tackling the prioritized issue (free grazing). IP members will be focusing on designing approaches (how, where and when) issues of free grazing to better address the issue
* The meeting is tentatively planned to be held beginning of February

**List of Participants at the first Innovation Platform meeting, Fogera wereda, November 21, 2011**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Name** | **Office** | **Role/Responsibility** | **Contact Number** |
| 1 | Biadgie Wubie | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Vice head | 0918091169 |
| 2 | Keffie Minale | Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA) | Field office coordinator | 0918706794 |
| 3 | Mekonnen Wasihun | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Development Agent | 0918095259 |
| 4 | Wuletaw Terefe | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Development Agent | 0918094351 |
| 5 | Belay Dejen | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Local development leader | 0918094921 |
| 6 | Anduale, Sisay | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Development agent | 0918010632 |
| 7 | Eskedar Mebratu | Woreda office of Women, Children and Youth | Office head | 0918716932 |
| 8 | Meheretu Ashagrie | Woreda office of Agriculture | Crop protection expert | 0923418926 |
| 9 | Gedefaw Getnet | Woreda office of Environmental Protection and Land Administration | Office head | 0918807069 |
| 10 | Melesse Dejen | Woreda office of Agriculture | Team leader | 0921145973 |
| 11 | Mengistu Shumet | Woreda office of water resource development | Team leader | 0918247887 |
| 12 | Melkam Abiyu | Woreda office of Culture and Tourism Office | Team leader | 0911553333 |
| 13 | Chalachew Kassie | Woreda Office of Finance and Economic Development | Office head | 0918029158 |
| 14 | Tesfaye Hailesilassie | Office of Agriculture | Extension team leader | 0918711059 |
| 15 | Priest. Anbaw Bizualem | Farmer – Dibasifatra kebele |  | 0918247222 (?) |
| 16 | Alebachew Guadie | Farmer – Kokit kebele |  | 0918096253 |
| 17 | Tewodros Taffese | International Water Management Institute | Site Coordinator for hydrology | 0912100610 |
| 18 | Kebebe Ergano | International Livestock Research Institute | Researcher | 0913306116 |
| 19 | Zelalem Lema | RIPPLE | Researcher | 0911725449 |
| 20 | Haileegziabhier | Wageningen University | Graduate student |  |
| 21 | Alemayehu Belay | International Livestock Research Institute | Researcher | 0911885535 |